Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF)

1a. Differentiate between the functions and operational capabilities of Marine aviation.

Missions and Functions

- Marine aviation is divided into six functional areas. Each functional area plays a vital role in the organization of the Aviation Combat Element within the Marine Air/Ground Task Force.
- The primary mission of Marine aviation is to participate as the Fleet Marine Force supporting air component.

Missions and Functions

- Additionally, Marine aviation supports the seizure and defense of advanced naval bases, conducts essential land operations during naval campaigns and participates as an integral component of naval aviation.

Missions and Functions

- Offensive Air Support
  - Involves air operations that are conducted against enemy installations, facilities, and personnel in order to directly assist in the attainment of MAGTF objectives.
  - Isolates the battlefield and provides timely and accurate close air support and deep air support.
  - Delays enemy reinforcements, degrading critical enemy functions, and manipulating enemy perceptions.

Missions and Functions

- Categories
  - Close air support requires detailed integration with a friendly ground force’s movement.
  - Deep air support does not require detailed integration but includes air interdiction and armed reconnaissance.

Missions and Functions

- Anti Air Warfare
  - Destroys or reduces enemy air and missile threats.
  - The primary purpose of AAW is to gain and maintain whatever degree of air superiority is required.
  - AAW uses both offensive and defensive means to accomplish its objectives and to directly support the warfighting function.

Missions and Functions

- Categories
  - Offensive AAW (OAAW) consist mainly of air attacks, suppression of enemy air defenses(SEAD), and local air superiority measures.
  - Defensive AAW includes active and passive defensive measures.

Missions and Functions

- Assault Support
  - Ensures the rapid build up of combat power and facilitates the quick maneuver of ground forces.
  - Assault Support uses aircraft to provide tactical mobility and logistic support to the MAGTF.
  - Categories
    - Combat assault transport
      - Provides mobility and logistical support.
      - Used to effect a rapid force buildup.

Missions and Functions

- Aerial delivery
  - Transport equipment and supplies to forward or remote areas.
  - Includes use of air drops (parachute or freefall).
- Aerial refueling
  - Allows flight-ferrying operations.
  - Aids in the recovery of damaged or low fuel aircraft.
- Air evacuation
  - Transports personnel and equipment from forward or remote areas.
  - Includes flights from areas of operations to secure rear areas, medical evacuations and retraction of forces.

Missions and Functions

- Tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel (TRAP)
  - Used when tactical situation prevents search and rescue.
  - Concept stresses detailed planning, assigned and briefed aircrews and confirmation of survivors and their locations.
- Air logistical support
  - Only fixed wing aircraft perform air logistical support
  - Delivers troops, equipment and supplies to areas beyond helicopter range and lift capability
- Battlefield illumination
  - Utilizes fixed or rotary wing aircraft
  - Used to illuminate the battlefield

Missions and Functions

- Air Reconnaissance
  - Provides the Marine Air/Ground Task Force commander with information he can use to influence operations
  - Categories
    - Visual
      - Aids offensive actions such as artillery, naval gunfire or air support missions
      - Supplements operational information concerning friendly forces

Missions and Functions

- Multisensor imagery
  - Photography
  - Radar imagery from the Advanced Tactical Aerial Reconnaissance (ATARS).
- Infrared devices
- Electronic
  - Detects, identifies, evaluates and locates enemy electromagnetic radiation.
  - Provides an estimate of the enemy’s order of battle.

Missions and Functions

- Electronic Warfare
  - Neutralizes enemy radars to support Marine Air/Ground Task Force operations and provides information to update the enemy's order of battle.
  - Only the VMAQ is specifically equipped to perform all aspects of EW.
  - Categories
    - Electronic Attack (EA)
    - Electronic Protection (EP)
    - Electronic Warfare Support (ES)

Missions and Functions

- Control of Aircraft and Missiles
  - Integrates the other five functions of Marine aviation by providing the commander with the ability to exercise command and control authority over Marine aviation assets.
  - Methods of control
    - Air direction
      - Has the authority to regulate the employment of air resources.
    - Air control
      - Airspace management
      - Airspace Control

Missions and Functions

- Control and coordination measures
  - Fire support coordination measures
  - Airspace control measures
  - Air defense control measures

Aviation Logistics

- Seabasing
  - Operations from aircraft carriers, amphibious ships, and aviation logistic support ships (TAVB) eliminates the need for vulnerable and immobile support facilities ashore.

Aviation Logistics

- Airfield Classifications
  - Main Air Base
    - Secure airfield
    - Handles all aircraft types
    - At minimum, includes intermediate maintenance support

Aviation Logistics

- Air Facility
  - Secure airfield
  - Can support aircraft detachments or squadrons
  - Includes organizational maintenance
  - Can stage aviation ordnance

Aviation Logistics

- Air Sites
  - Secure location
  - Combat aircraft preposition to reduce response time
  - Operations limited to receiving and launching previously loaded aircraft
  - Can stage fuel and ordnance (EAF)
  - No maintenance available

Aviation Logistics

- Air Points
  - Tactical designation applied to a predetermined geographical location
  - Supports a specific tactical mission
  - Includes forward arming and refueling points (FARP) and laager points

Aviation Logistics

- Construction Support
  - Engineer Operations Division, Marine Wing Support Squadron, Marine Wing Support Group
  - Engineer Support Battalion, Force Service Support Group
  - Naval Construction Force

Aviation Logistics

- The Marine Aviation Logistics Support Program (MALSP)
  - Logistical Support for the Aviation Combat Element is included in the Marine Aviation Logistics Support Program (MALSP).
  - Aviation logistics support is resident within the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron (MALS)

Aviation Logistics

- Support packages include the following:
  - Fly-in Support Packages (FISP)
  - Contingency Support Packages (CSP)
  - Following-On Support Packages (FOP)

Aviation Logistics

- Aviation logistic support ship (TAVB) primary mission is to provide dedicated sealift for movement of aviation logistic support.
  - Designed to support MEF sized MAGTF contingency.
  - Requires unopposed entry into an objective area.
  - On notification of movement the TAVB will arrive in the objective area within 30 days.

Aviation Logistics

- Aviation Ground Support (AGS)
  - Aviation Ground Support includes air base functions and ground services provided by the Marine Wing Support Squadron
  - Aviation Ground Support (AGS) consists of the following functionality’s:
    - Internal Airfield Communications
    - Weather Service
    - Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting

Aviation Logistics

- Refueling
- Material Handling
- Motor Transport
- Engineering Support
- Arresting Gear and Visual Landing Aids
- Airfield Security

Aviation Logistics

- Combat Service Support Detachment
  - Transporting
  - Performing
  - Providing
  - Provides support that cannot be provided by the Marine Wing Support Squadron

- APPLICATION: Interspersed throughout the entire lesson
- EVALUATION: Written test at the end of the unit